

The Sadducees were doubtless far more familiar with the Old Testament in the Hebrew than ~~they would be~~ with the Septuagint, and would <sup>surely never</sup> ~~would~~ <sup>think of</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>merely</sup> be satisfied with accepting an argument based on a word in that imperfect translation. If we believe in the verbal inspiration of the Old Testament, it seems to me that we must mean by that the <sup>verbal</sup> inspiration of the original Hebrew manuscripts.

I have heard many instances of godly men in recent years preaching sermons in which they base whole doctrines or interpretations on one word of the Scripture. Often these interpretations are extremely fantastic. I do not believe that it is the Lord's will that we should build arguments in <sup>such a</sup> ~~this~~ way. <sup>God</sup> He presents the <sup>basic</sup> truths so clearly that ~~a~~ wayfaring man, though a fool, <sup>need</sup> should not err therein. As we study more deeply, we learn <sup>further</sup> truths by comparing Scripture with Scripture. We do not need to base <sup>any</sup> doctrine <sup>upon</sup> ~~on any~~ one word or <sup>upon</sup> ~~letter~~ of the original. By verbal inspiration, I mean that the entire ~~Old~~ <sup>Scripture</sup> Testament is so worded that it is kept free from errors of fact, of doctrine, or of judgment, and thus represents to us the very mind of God. I do not mean that it is so stated that we are justified in taking a verse or a phrase out of its context and <sup>building</sup> ~~being~~ an argument on it. Since I feel so strongly that this is a type of argument lending itself to all sorts of errors and one which ought to be avoided by us, I would <sup>be surprised</sup> ~~feel it strange~~ if ~~such a type of argument~~ <sup>used it,</sup> were used by the New Testament writers themselves. <sup>It</sup> As a matter of fact, I do not think that they did so. <sup>(Gen 13:10)</sup> It is inconceivable to me that Paul could have based an argument upon one word of the Hebrew being in the singular, particularly when that very same word in the singular is used in the very next verse, <sup>to indicate the great multitude of the</sup> seed which ~~shall be so great that it can no more be numbered than can~~ the <sup>dust</sup> ~~sand~~ of the <sup>earth,</sup> ~~sea~~. I believe that the Septuagint also uses the singu-